

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 189085

64

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 SCEM-02 IGA-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 /168 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HRMELONE:JR

APPROVED BY AF - DDNEWSOM

AF/E-MR. COOTE

----- 032338

P 212331Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, ET, SO, LY, US, XA, OAU

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY NEWSOM

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AMB. KIFLE CALLED ON NEWSOM SEPT. 20.
HE SAID HE HAD COME TO TRANSMIT IEG'S ASSESSMENT OF
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AREA SINCE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO
PRESIDENT. KIFLE INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD FEELING
THAT ARABS TRIED TO ISOLATE ETHIOPIA DIPLOMATICALLY AT
MAY OAU CONFERENCE. WHILE ETHIOPIA HAD ALWAYS BEEN
ARABS' TARGET, THEY HAD NOW DECIDED TAKE OFFENSIVE, MAKING
OVERT ATTACKS AND INTENTIONS PUBLIC. IEG THOUGHT PLAN
TO REMOVE OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS WAS NOT SIMPLY
LIBYAN INITIATIVE BUT WAS COORDINATED PLAN OF SEVERAL
ARAB COUNTRIES. ARABS REALIZED HEADQUARTERS COULD NOT
GO TO ANY ARAB CAPITAL BUT HOPED TO GAIN BLACK AFRICAN
SYMPATHY BY EVENTUALLY ENGINEERING REMOVAL TO SUB-SAHARAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189085

LOCATION, FOR EXAMPLE, NIGERIA.

2. KIFLE SAID IEG BELIEVED ARABS WERE NOT REALLY CONCERNED OVER ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, KNOWING THEY ARE NOT AS PORTRAYED BY ARAB PRESS, BUT IEG SURPRISED THAT ARABS CHOSE OAU CONFERENCE TO ATTACK THESE RELATIONS. IEG BELIEVED ARABS WANTED ETHIOPIA CHANGE ITS POLICY VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL IN ORDER TO OPEN REST OF BLACK AFRICA TO ARAB MANEUVERS.

3. KIFLE ASSERTED THAT RECENT SOMALI CHALLENGE CONNECTED WITH ARAB DESIGNS AND THAT SOMALIS WERE ENCOURAGED BY ARABS WHO COORDINATED WITH SOMALIA THEIR ATTACK AT OAU CONFERENCE. THIS OF GREAT CONCERN TO IEG.

4. ACCORDING TO KIFLE, IEG BELIEVES ARABS ARE DISTURBED BY ETHIOPIAN OIL POTENTIAL, WHICH THEY EXAGGERATE, AND BELIEVE FUTURE ETHIOPIAN PRODUCTION WOULD DEPRIVE THEM OF LEVER AGAINST WEST. THIS CONSIDERATION ENTERED INTO ARAB DECISION TO STIMULATE SOMALI ACTION AGAINST POTENTIALLY OIL RICH OGADEN REGION. ARABS, SAID KIFLE, CONTINUE TO REGARD REST OF AFRICA AS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BACK YARD OF ARAB WORLD.

5. FINALLY, KIFLE SAID HE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INQUIRE INTO STATUS OF IEG MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUEST.

6. NEWSOM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RECEIVING ETHIOPIAN VIEWS AND SAID WE HAD NOTED LIBYA'S EFFORT TO EMBARRASS ETHIOPIA AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION AT OAU MEETING. WE ALSO NOTED THAT MOST OTHER ARABS REMAINED SILENT SO ONE NOT SURE OF THEIR POSITION. WE HAD FEELING LIBYA RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FOR MOVING HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS, PERHAPS ONLY ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES. (KIFLE CONCEDED THAT THIS WAS SO.)

7. NEWSOM SAID IT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER ARABS HAVE CAPACITY TO WORK IN UNITY SO THAT PRESSURES ON ETHIOPIA MIGHT AMOUNT TO SOMETHING. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SUDAN, FOR INSTANCE, IS NOT PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN HOSTILE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189085

ACTION. NONETHELESS WE UNDERSTAND WHY ETHIOPIA HAS EVERY REASON TO BE VIGILANT. FOR ITS PART, US DESIRES CONTINUE SUPPORT TO LIMITS POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN DESIRE DEFEND ITSELF.

8. TURNING TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE, NEWSOM RECALLED THAT WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF STAFF WHEN THEY IN WASHINGTON THAT WE COULD

NOT MEET VERY LARGE REQUESTS ON LIST SUBMITTED IN MAY. WE HAD AGREED RECONVENE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE UNDER AMBASSADOR'S CHAIRMANSHIP AND IT HAD NOW SUBMITTED FIRST LIST. THIS PROCESS STILL GOING ON. WE EXPECTED AMBASSADOR MEET SHORTLY WITH EMPEROR TO INDICATE FY 74 DOLLAR GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WHICH SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO REDUCTION BY CONGRESS.

9. AFTER DESCRIBING CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IN TRYING INDICATE ASSISTANCE LIMITS NOW, NEWSOM SAID WE COULD NOT BE VERY DEFINITE UNTIL CONGRESS APPROVES SECURITY ASSISTANCE BUDGET. OUR RESPONSE TO MOD REQUEST WILL BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS IN ADDIS AND WE SHALL SUBSEQUENTLY INFORM KIFLE OF CONTENTS. NEWSOM WARNED AGAIN THAT OUR REPLY, ITSELF HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, WOULD NOT APPROACH VERY SUBSTANTIAL LEVELS REQUESTED. IN REPLY TO KIFLE'S QUESTION, HE INDICATED WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE COMMIT OURSELVES TO MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF NECESSITY FOR ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

10. AFTER HEARING NEWSOM'S DESCRIPTION OF WYMAN'S CONVERSATION WITH EMPEROR ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR PHASE-DOWN AT KAGNEW, KIFLE INDICATED THAT IEG HAD EXPECTED IT TO HAPPEN EVENTUALLY, ALTHOUGH TIMING UNCERTAIN. FONMIN MINASSE HAD ASKED HIM TO EXPRESS TO NEWSOM IEG HOPE THAT OTHERS WOULD NOT INTREPRET MOVE AS LOSS OF U.S. INTEREST IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. NEWSOM GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THIS CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN ONE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 189085

PRIMARY CONCERNS DURING USG DISCUSSIONS ON MATTER AND THAT WE, TOO, WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MOVE HAS NO SUCH EFFECT. HE WAS SURE DR. KISSINGER WOULD CONVEY SIMILAR STRONG REASSURANCES TO MINASSE DURING THEIR EXPECTED MEETING IN NEW YORK.

11. NEWSOM ALSO CONVEYED AGAIN US THANKS FOR ETHIOPIA'S VOTE AGAINST PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE OF 24, FOR WHICH, SAID KIFLE, ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN HARSHLY CRITICIZED AT ALGIERS CONFERENCE. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE189085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HRMELONE:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS NEWSOM
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730917/aaaaamjz.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, ET, SO, LY, US, XA, OAU
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005